

Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 5, 2008 and made final has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Applicant and the undersigned wish to thank Examiner Ouellette for the courtesies he extended in a telephone interview that occurred on February 10, 2009. During the interview, the undersigned briefly discussed the difference between the present invention and the cited reference, Krishnan. For example, the undersigned pointed out that Krishnan does not describe or teach a hierarchy of business units that includes a business entity level, an organization level, a site level, a department level and a building level. Rather, Krishnan only describes a manager/executive screen shot, an executive/policy maker screen shot, and a worker screen shot.

However, in an effort to place this case in condition for allowance, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed further amending the independent claims to include the recitation wherein "the organization level is a predefined sub-portion of the business entity level, the site level is a predefined sub-portion of the organization level, the department level is a predefined sub-portion of the site level, and the building level is another predefined sub-portion of the site level." The Examiner acknowledged that this claim amendment should overcome the Krishnan reference.

This response is made in consequence of the February 10th telephone call, and places this case in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-18, 20, 23-36 and 38-45 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-18, 20, 23-36 and 38-45 stand rejected. Claims 4, 7, 19, 21, 22 and 37 were previously cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-18, 20, 23-36 and 38-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnan et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0184068) ("Krishnan") is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Krishnan is distinguishable from the subject matter claimed herein, and accordingly does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Figures 13-15 and paragraphs 120-133 of Krishnan are cited as disclosing information that is stored and retrieved for three different business unit levels, namely Manager, Policy Maker and Worker. Applicant submits that the cited portions of Krishnan do not disclose a creation of a hierarchy of business units included within a business entity as presently claimed in independent claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33, but rather discloses a personnel-based hierarchy of information storage and retrieval. This is believed to be evident from Figures 13-15 of Krishnan wherein persons at different personnel levels (Manager, Policy Maker, and Worker) are presented with different information and different options in the respective displays shown in Figures 13-15. As such, Krishnan is conceptually different from the present claimed subject matter in important aspects, including but not limited to how information is organized, stored, processed, retrieved and presented to system users. In light of such fundamental differences, the presently claimed subject matter is not believed to be obvious.

Each of independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 recites that the hierarchy of business units includes at least the business entity level, an organization level, a site level, a department level and a building level. Such levels of business units are not contemplated by the Krishnan disclosure, nor is Krishnan suggestive of such a hierarchy of business units. Rather, and as noted above, Krishnan discloses a personnel-based hierarchy of users that are each provided access to certain information that is specific to each user. Further, the information provided is not organized or presented using a business-based hierarchy having multiple levels of information including a business entity level, an organization level, a site level, a department level and a building level as claimed. The business-based hierarchy facilitates a focus on *where* in the larger business entity tasks are to be performed. Such information does not appear to be relevant to the Krishnan disclosure and Krishnan does not objectively suggest any desirability of providing such information.

Applicant further submits that three different personnel levels (Manager, Policy Maker, and Worker) of Krishnan cannot be used as a basis for describing the five different levels recited

in the present claims (business entity level, organization level, site level, department level and building level).

Moreover, each of independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 recites that the hierarchy of business units includes at least a business entity level, an organization level, a site level, a department level and a building level, and *wherein the organization level is a predefined sub-portion of the business entity level, the site level is a predefined sub-portion of the organization level, the department level is a predefined sub-portion of the site level, and the building level is another predefined sub-portion of the site level.* (Emphasis added.) Krishnan does not describe this additional recitation.

Further, and related to the points above, each of the independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 recites that the CA information includes a responsible person assigned to each task at each business unit at each level within the hierarchy of business units. Figure 18 of Krishnan shows a list of names associated with a number of tasks, but conspicuously does not identify their association with a particular business unit in a larger business entity. Applicant submits that this is further evidence of the user-based hierarchy that Krishnan appears to disclose, wherein the information turns upon specific people, but not their location in the larger business entity structure. Again, the business-based hierarchy recited in the present claims provides focus on *where* in the larger business entity tasks are to be performed. Krishnan does not disclose a business-based hierarchy, and therefore does not render the storage of “a responsible person assigned to each task at each business unit at each level within the hierarchy of business units” obvious. As applied by the Office, the business unit levels disclosed by Krishnan are personnel-based Manager, Policy Maker and Worker levels, but nothing in Figures 13-15 of Krishnan fairly disclose or suggest specifically to whom tasks are assigned at the Manager, Policy Maker and Worker levels.

Independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 recite aspects of notification of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines “including providing the CA tasks and the responsible person assigned to each CA task for the selected business unit.” Figure 18 and paragraph 136 of Krishnan disclose that the system displays a list of responsible persons for a number of tasks, but fails to disclose or suggest a responsible person assigned to

each CA task *for the selected business unit* as the present claims recite. Indeed, it is not immediately clear from the Krishnan disclosure whether the information shown in Figure 18 is accessible from each of the Manager, Policy Maker and Worker levels and the associated screens shown in Figures 13-15.

For at least the reasons stated above, the independent claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 are not obvious over Krishnan, and independent claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 27 and 33 are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

The recitations of dependent claims 2-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 23-26, 28-32, 34-36, and 38-45, when considered in combination with the respective base claims, are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Moreover, the recitations of at least dependent Claims 2, 12, 23, 28 and 35 are believed to be independently patentable over Krishnan, as Krishnan nowhere discloses or suggests CA information that is retrievable and displayable in response to a selected business entity included within the business entity level, or by a selected organization included within the organization level corresponding to the selected business entity, or by a selected site which is included within the site level corresponding to the selected organization, or by a selected department which is included within the department level corresponding to the selected site, or by a selected building that is included within the building level corresponding to the selected department. Such levels are not available for a user to select in the system described by Krishnan and the Krishnan system is accordingly not suggestive of retrieving and displaying information in response to the selected levels.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-18, 20, 23-36 and 38-45 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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